

Dear Mark (and Jim),

3/27/83

Thanks for calling yesterday. I thought about our conversation later and write to provide a few additions.

Some time back I got a good buy on several file cabinets for which I had no immediate need. I've placed them where they are not in my way and they are empty, at least some are. This means that if you run into a space problem, absent any developments which I do not anticipate, they are available for at least temporary storage. It is only a larger volume of records that would require moving anything around. My guess is that if you place the sections in file folders there is now space for at least 16 linear feet of them.

With regard to your suspicion that CD 1359 may pertain to the Childs trip to Castro, I suggest a slightly different approach and that you begin by deciding for yourself whether anything more is worth the time and effort, compared with the other possible uses for that time and effort.

You anticipate that Blakey would be unwilling if not also unfriendly. Then I suggest an approach that should reduce the probabilities of such reactions.

Write a blind memo with a caption something like Does CD 1359 Pertain to the Childs and their trip to Cuba, and in it refer to yourself in the third person.

Begin it with some history, like the Childs disclosures, and include that the fact that they were highly-level FBI informants was secret until made public by Garrow. Attach copies of clippings and pages from the book, as I suggested.

Then go into the fact that no disclosed WC record holds even any suggestion that the FBI provided any Childs info to the WC and then analyze the probabilities that the FBI would not have dared risk the criticism that it would get if it came out that it had and withheld info of this character. I'd put the load on the FBIHQ bureaucrats who had to cover the Bureau's ass while also covering their own and offer the belief that in order not to have any risk of Hoover cutting their heads off they probably suggested that the info be disclosed, with proper and perhaps necessary protection, to some on the Commission or its staff, but not for any use or further distribution of the information.

Then you might say that for whatever reasons you have in mind, it appears that there is a possibility that this Childs info is or may be in CD 1359 and, having already become public knowledge because the FBI made it possible, ought not be subject to withholding under FOIA and specifically not with b2 and 7D claims.

Ask Bud to send a copy to Blakey and ask his opinion and whether he can now say that this is why, as disclosed in the case Jim is handling, this is why he then agreed its contents should not be made public. Bud is handling cases of ~~him~~ and it is only reasonable that, with public disclosure, there is no need if not in fact no legal right to continue to withhold. I think this presents no problem at all to Blakey because he would ~~be~~ not in any event be addressing anything properly subject to classification today.

However, I believe Bud should just avoid mentioning who wrote the memo he'd send Blakey because you may well be correct in believing that if he knew it was you he'd have a negative attitude.

With one exception I offer no opinion of worth for this project as compared with what else can be done with that time and effort. I believe it ranks low, compared with other matters, as the subject of litigation. I don't see that it makes any great difference in anything significant that we know. If we assume that the record is what you suspect. If it is not, then my judgement is correct. If it is, it is only another thing the Commission covered up. It could get a good story, but what could that really mean or lead to today? Please excuse the haste. We are about to leave. Best,